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THE HOUGHTONIAN



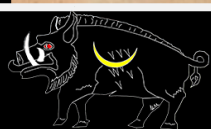
QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF HOUGHTON HERITAGE SOCIETY

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NOW 20 PAGES!



WWW.HOUGHTONLESPRING.ORG.UK

CAN YOU HELP?

If you have any old photographs of Houghton-le-Spring that you would like to share, please contact Paul Lanagan via www.houghtonlespring.org.uk

FACES AND PLACES

Photographs are treated with care and respect and are returned promptly once they have been copied.

Allowing your precious photographs to be copied and shared ensures that they will be around for generations to come.

1953 Coronation, 1977 & 2002 Jubilee photos also wanted for a special commemorative book in 2012!





WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTONIAN, the quarterly magazine of the Houghton Heritage Group. In this second issue you will notice the recurring Bernard Gilpin theme, which is in commemoration of Houghton's greatest Rector who died on March 4th 1583. The front cover features an ancient drawing of St Michael & All Angels Church, as viewed from the south-east corner of the churchyard.

THANK YOU FOR ALL of the positive feedback for the first issue - I do hope this issue was worth the wait! We also have the 2011 Census to look forward to - make sure you fill your copy in, as it will be used by your descendants in 100 years time - how time flies!

PAUL LANAGAN BA HONS

@ WEB UPDATES @

WWW.HOUGHTONLESPRING.ORG.UK

The HH website is updated frequently. Just click on the **UPDATED** link on the home page to see what's new. Some of the updated pages during the past three months include:

- ⚡ Rectory Park Time Line - details about the imminent demolition of Houghton Area Office.
- ⚡ Colliery Time Line - banner information for 1872, 1965 and 2003.
- ⚡ Bernard Gilpin - articles now grouped together for ease of reading.
- ⚡ Newtown County School - photo and memories of this little school in the Market Place.
- ⚡ School Zone Resources - 'Houghton Then & Now' activities.
- ⚡ Sunderland Street - 1911 occupants.



Find us on
Facebook

To join the HH Group on Facebook simply follow the link from the main website and click the 'join group' button!



For a large print version of The Houghtonian, read the online PDF, which can be increased in size onscreen up to a whopping 6400% in Adobe Reader!

IN THIS AGE OF DIGITAL

devices, we often take for granted how easy it is to find out the time; we don't need to wear a wristwatch, we simply glance at our mobile phone or i-pod, but during the Victorian era, time keeping while out and about wasn't so easy. In 1884 the people of Houghton agreed that an illuminated clock would be beneficial and the best place to erect it would be in the tower of St Michael & All Angels Church. This would not be the first clock in the Church, however, as a metal engraving from 1784 features a clock above the door on the west wall of the church. Records also show that a Ralph Porter was responsible for maintaining a Church clock between 1559 and 1605, while in 1662 a John Hope was responsible for repairing and maintaining the clock.

1884 - January 16th - a public meeting, later referred to as the Bernard Gilpin Tercentenary Public Meeting, was held in St Michael's Church Hall in the Rectory grounds. Seven resolutions were proposed and carried which saw the forming of a committee and the opening of a bank account for the raising of funds to install an illuminated clock in the Church tower, to make repairs to the Church fabric, and for the erection of a proper means of access to the Belfry.

1884 - March 4th - A sub-committee for the Bernard Gilpin Tercentenary was formed. Various meetings took place that month and it was agreed unanimously that "if the Funds admit of it, a new Clock, with one or more dials, illuminated and raised, if possible, be obtained."

1884 - April 3rd - The Rector presided over a meeting where it was agreed to accept the estimate of Messrs Reid & Sons for a new illuminated turret clock at the cost of £115, with Cambridge chimes, £160, provided sufficient funds were raised. Early subscriptions paid into the account were from the Earl of Durham (£5), Rector John Grey (£5) and J. Gilpin Brown Esq (£2 10s).

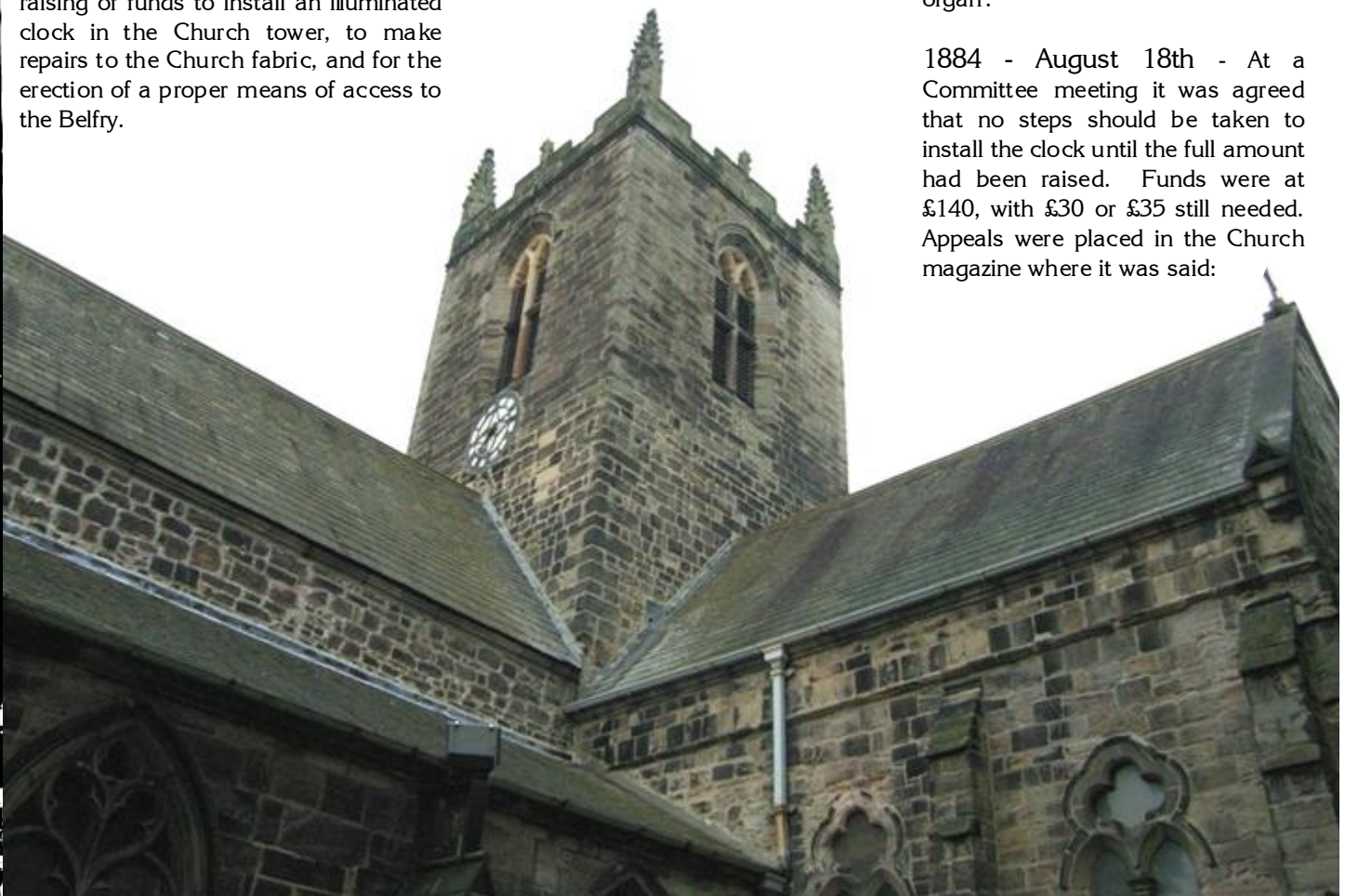
1884 - May 1st - The Bishop of Durham preached at St Michael's Church on the occasion of the Bernard Gilpin Tercentenary Commemoration. Gilpin's tomb in the south transept was decorated with a cross and wreath of flowers.

In the evening, Rev C.S Collingwood, who had recently written a book about Gilpin, gave a lecture in St Michael's Church Hall. It was reported in the April 1884 Church Magazine: "We are sorry that the Lecture, which was most interesting and exceedingly well delivered, had not a larger audience."

1884 - May 4th - The Commemorations continued on the Sunday with a sermon by the Rector at the morning service. Rev George Body, Canon of Durham, preached in the evening. The collections raised £7 for the Memorial Fund.

1884 - June - The illuminated clock fund stood at £130 11s 11d and the Church improvement fund stood at £58 6s 5d. The largest donation in the clock fund had come from Sir George Elliot (£10 = £483.10, today's value). Funds were used that month to panel the walls and ceiling of the organ chamber in the hope it would prevent the damp from 'injuring the organ'.

1884 - August 18th - At a Committee meeting it was agreed that no steps should be taken to install the clock until the full amount had been raised. Funds were at £140, with £30 or £35 still needed. Appeals were placed in the Church magazine where it was said:



IT'S ABOUT TIME

A look at the Gilpin Tercentenary Clock

"As the dark evenings are rapidly coming on, an Illuminated Clock would be a great boon to the town and district, and every effort should be made now to raise the comparatively small amount that is wanted."

1884 - September 1st - A Committee meeting was held in the Rectory. It was proposed by Mr Joseph Stokoe and seconded by Dr Lyon that: "The Rector and Churchwardens...settle the terms of an agreement with the Local Board, with reference to the erection of the proposed new Illuminated Clock in the Church Tower, and the future maintenance and lighting of the said Clock." and that an application be made to the Local Board to contribute to the cost of the clock's installation.

1884 - October 13th - A report was presented at a Committee meeting in St Michael's Church Hall and stated that: the new clock would be handed over to the Local Board and would become their property; the Rector and Churchwardens consented to the clock being placed in the Church tower, with the costs (and Faculty cost) borne by the Local Board; the Local Board would have access to the clock at all times and would keep it going and in good order; the Local Board was to pay the Rector and Churchwardens one shilling a year so long as the clock remains in the tower, and that should three months' notice be given, the clock be removed and the clock chamber and tower be restored.

1884 - October 20th - An agreement was made between the Rector, Churchwardens and Local Board for the future maintenance of the clock.

1884 - December 13th - A Faculty (Diocese permission) was granted for the erection of a clock in the Church tower. At the meeting in October, it was agreed that the Rector and Churchwardens be empowered to make arrangements for the purchase of the clock once the Faculty had been granted.

1884 - December 27th - Rector John Grey reported that the funds for the Bernard Gilpin Tercentenary came to £148 2s 5d for the clock, £41 1s for church improvements and £36 expended by the Churchwardens on cleaning and colouring the walls and roof, plus other works, taking the total to £290. Adjusting the amounts into modern equivalents using the National Archive's currency converter gives £14,000, of which the clock cost £7,155.72. The clock was installed into the Church tower in late December.

1885 - April - It was reported in the Church magazine: "We are pleased to see that the Illuminated Clock has at last been completed to the satisfaction of the Committee. The chimes and striking apparatus seem to be now in good working order; an improved pendulum has been added, and the works...cased in." A broader minute hand was expected to be installed at a later date and appeal went out for more donations to cover the unexpected expenses.

By Paul Lanagan

Images below: The outside view of the clock, left, and the clock workings inside the tower, right, photographed by Paul Lanagan in 2006.



Details of the Tercentenary Committee and
Clock's benefactors online at:
WWW.HOUGHTONLESPRING.ORG.UK

SAVED!

READERS OF THE previous issue will recollect the article about Houghton Area Office - the old 'Council Offices' building in Rectory Park. That article had been written in October 2010 and at the time, no information had been available about the building's prospective demolition.

It is now known that Houghton Area Office is up for demolition, with planning permission passed, and a prospective date of April 2011 in the pipeline. It is thought that the construction methods used in this 1960s building, including the use of asbestos, would result in costs of £500,000 should the building have been modernised. That coupled with the building being 'surplus to requirements' led to demolition being the best option.

Recently, Paul Lanagan raised the issue of the building's treasures with the City of Sunderland Council. The Offices housed the 1967 foundation stone, the 1968 opening plaque, two War Savings Campaign plaques 1943 & 1944, a plaque and shield for Houghton's adopted warship, HMS Wellard, 1941, Old Rectory Plaque

1951, as well as the John Mawston bench, 1987, within the grounds. Paul also enquired about other items of antiquity, as there had been a suggestion that the 1953 Coronation Committee's noticeboard, which stood in




the Broadway until 2006, and the original sign for the Gilpin Thorn, which can be seen erected alongside the ancient hawthorn in photographs from the 1950s, were stored in the Offices in a cupboard under the stairs. Alarming, none of these ten precious items had been identified individually in the planning permission papers, and Paul was concerned that the items may have ended up damaged or lost. After an exchange of emails with those responsible for the demolition, Paul received assurances that now the plight of the items had

been raised, they would be recovered and stored safely. His enquiries revealed that the 1953 noticeboard had been collected several years ago as part of a scheme for schoolchildren, and that the Gilpin Thorn sign can no longer be found. The loose plaques and shields have now been taken for storage to the Hetton Centre, while the dedication stone is still in situ and will be removed by hand during the demolition.

Houghton Heritage members can rest assured that the fate, and final destination, of these items will be followed closely, and in the meantime thanks are extended to Houghton Ward Councillor, Kath Rolph, and Council Officer, Jim Hope, for their assistance in safeguarding these items.



 **N.b.** Since hearing of the hint of prospective demolition in summer 2010, Paul Lanagan has documented and recorded the exterior and interior of the building. To see a selection of photographs, visit the Houghton Heritage website.

BLOOMIN' MARVELLOUS!

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL HAS a long-term project to help eradicate Polio around the world. To help raise local awareness of this virus, and how it affects those around the world, Houghton's Rotary Club members have planted purple crocuses in the area around the Rotary Stone in Dairy Lane. Purple was chosen as this represents the colour of the dye which is dabbed on the little fingers of those who have been immunized.

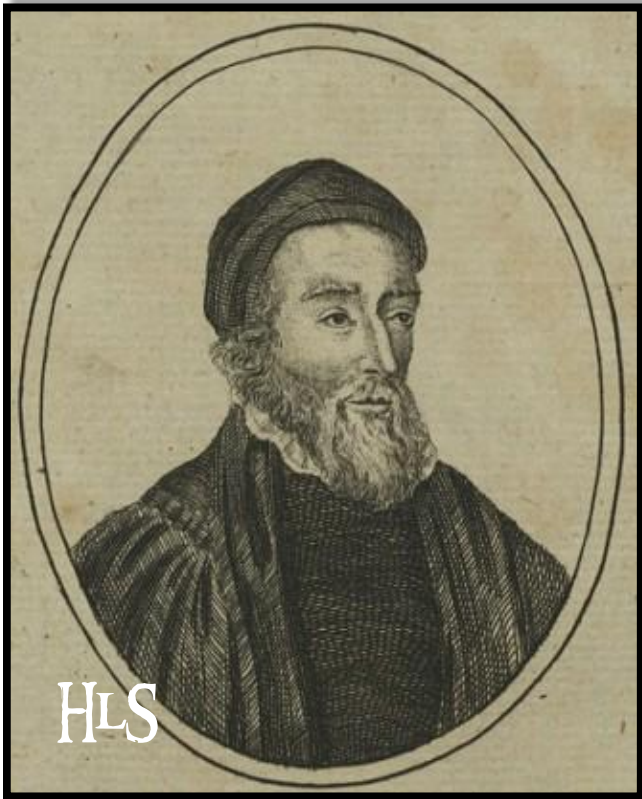


Rotary's work to eradicate the disease has seen a 99% reduction in Polio cases. If you're in the area and you'd like to see the crocuses, make sure you also have a look at Rotary's other plaques in the vicinity: the Centenary Stone, which was presented to the town on February 24th 2005 in an official ceremony presided over by Sunderland Mayor, Councillor James B Scott; and the Rotary Centenary 'Heart of Gold' Rose Bed, opposite Durham Road shops. The Rotary Club of Houghton-le-Spring was formed in April 1947 and has been very active in the town since then, most notably with the annual Houghton Feast ox roasting tradition – and long may it continue.



BERNARD GILPIN

DIED: MARCH 4TH 1583



The following time line is still 'under construction' and gives a flavour of the main events in the life of Bernard Gilpin. Numbers in brackets indicate Gilpin's age – something worth considering alongside his achievements. I hope to update the time line with details of Gilpin's visits into 'wild' Northumberland, once a date or dates can be ascertained.

1517 - Bernard Gilpin was born, one of the youngest children and fourth son of Edwin Gilpin of Kentmere, Westmorland.

1533 - At the age of sixteen, Bernard Gilpin attended Queen's College, Oxford.

1540 – Gilpin [23] graduated with a Bachelor of Arts.

1542 – Gilpin [25] graduated with a Master of Arts. He was ordained in this year.

1549 – Gilpin [32] graduated with a B.D.

1552 - Bernard Gilpin [35] left Oxford and became Vicar of Norton (near Stockton) in the Diocese of Durham in November 1552.

1553 - Bernard Gilpin left Norton in April or May and travelled to Europe in the early months of 1553.

July 1553 - Queen Mary I ("Bloody Mary") ascended the throne and began the restoration of Roman Catholicism to England.

VISIT THE NEW BERNARD GILPIN SECTION ON THE HOUGHTON HERITAGE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO!

1556 – Bernard Gilpin [39] returned to England from his visit to France, Germany and Holland and was presented with the Rectory of Easington and made Archdeacon of Durham by his Uncle, Tunstall, Bishop of Durham.

March 1557 – Bernard Gilpin [40] accepted the offer of Rector for the parish of Houghton-le-Spring.

October 29th 1558 - Bernard Gilpin [41] became the Rector of Houghton-le-Spring.

Nov 17th 1558 - Queen Mary I died.

1566 – Bernard Gilpin [57] cofounded the Kepier School in Houghton-le-Spring around 1566 with his friend, John Heath, a London merchant. The Royal Charter was signed in 1574 and the school became known as the Royal Kepier Grammar School.

Oct 27th 1582 - Bernard Gilpin [65] made out his Last Will & Testament. Around this time he said in a letter to a friend: "I have a very weak body, subject to many diseases." A plague was raging through Houghton at this time and may have prompted the will-writing.

February 1583 - Gilpin [66] was in a weakened state following an incident which occurred in Durham Market Place; he had been struck down by an ox!

March 4th 1583 - Bernard Gilpin died at the age of 66 years. He was interred the next day in a grave inside Houghton Parish Church. A large altar tomb was later erected on the site.

1884 [date adjusted] - The Tercentenary of Bernard Gilpin's death was marked. The parishioners of Houghton-le-Spring raised the funds to purchase, install and maintain a clock in the Church tower. This clock can still be seen to this day.

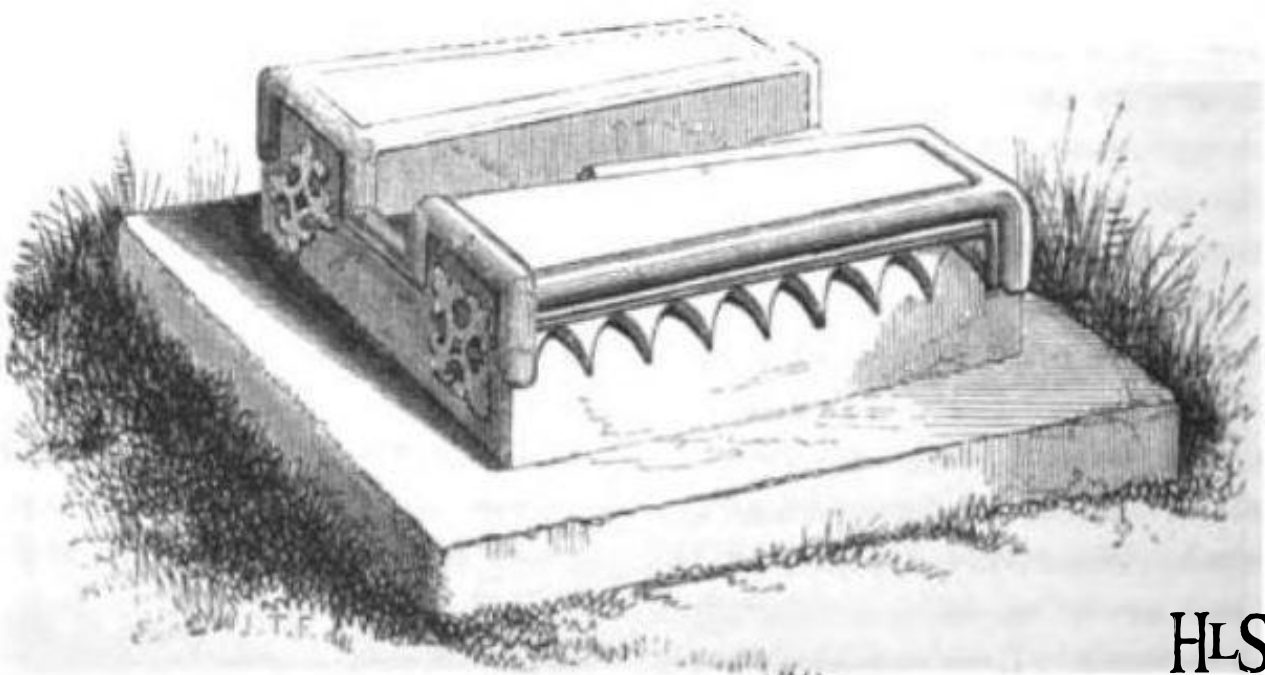
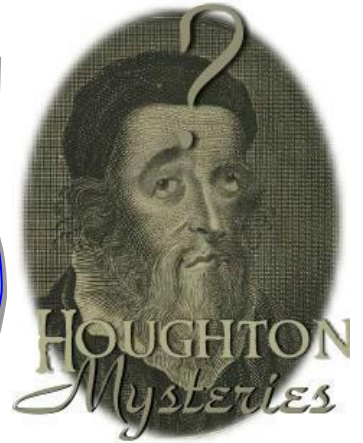
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1967 – Gilpin's tradition of roasting an ox to feed the parish's poor was resurrected at Houghton Feast by the Rotary Club of Houghton-le-Spring and continues to this day.

1983 – Funds were raised by the parishioners of St Michael & All Angels Church for the installation of a magnificent stained glass window in the West wall of the church. The window depicts the life of Bernard Gilpin.

By Paul Lanagan

MYSTERIES



HLS

Infants' Tomb, Houghton-le-Spring.

THE ABOVE ILLUSTRATION, from the Gentleman's Magazine of Jan-June 1865, shows an unusual memorial in St Michael's churchyard. It was described as:

"...thought to have been intended for a memorial of twins dying in infancy ... [the memorial measured: height - 9.5 in; length - 2 ft 1 in; width at broader end where crosses are - 1ft 10.5 in; at other end - 1ft 8.5 in.] ...it was found built up in a wall at the restoration of the church, and is now preserved in the churchyard."

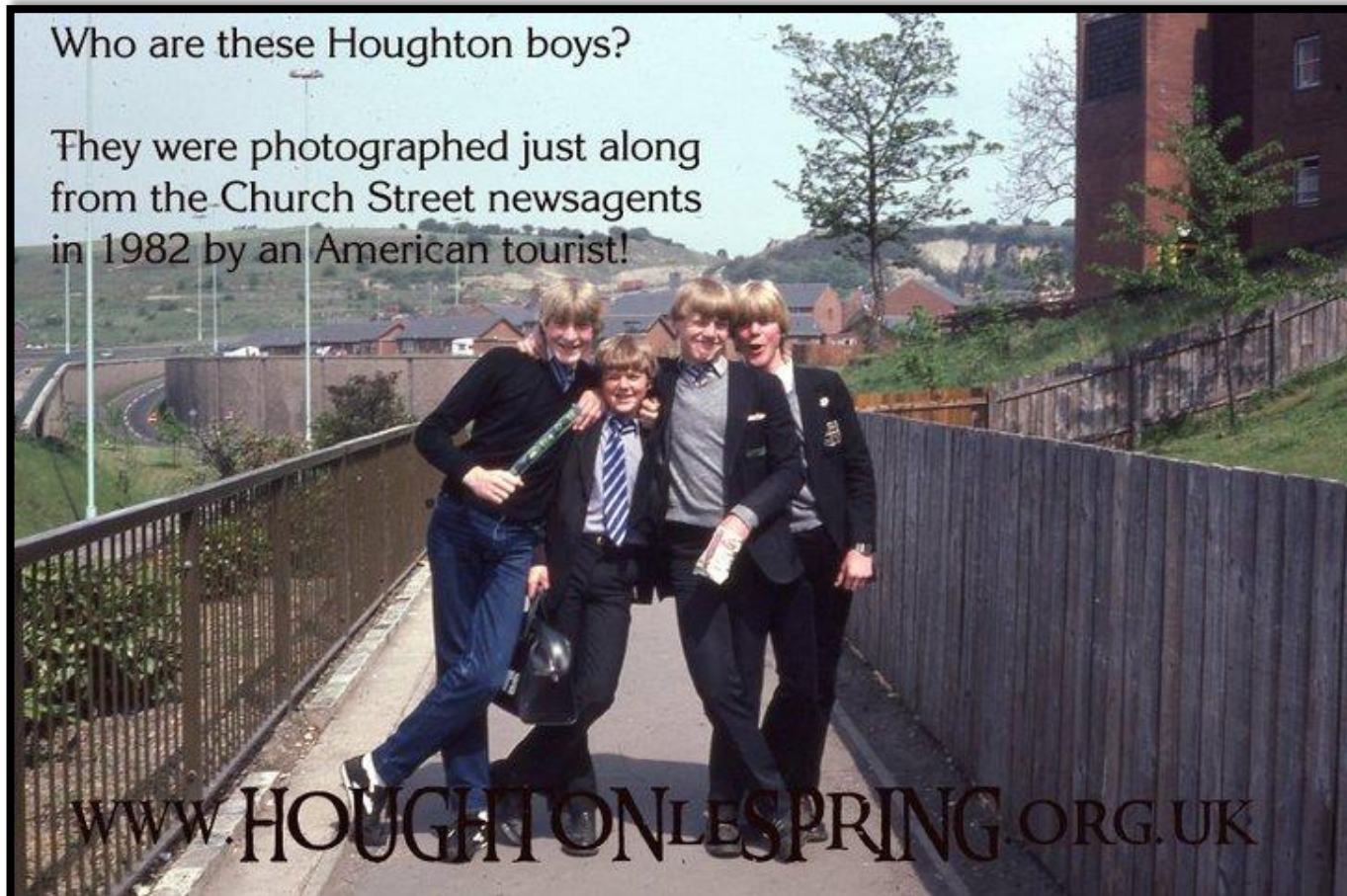
The Church was remodelled in 1857 & 1858. On February 26th 1859 it reopened following the restoration work - could this have been when the stone was moved into the Churchyard?

It is also thought that the tomb of Captain Robert Hutton, who died on August 9th 1680, and was originally located in the grounds of Houghton Hall, was relocated into St Michael's churchyard - but where is that monument?

Do you know where these stones are?

Who are these Houghton boys?

They were photographed just along from the Church Street newsagents in 1982 by an American tourist!



DOES ANYBODY RECOGNISE these young lads who were photographed just off Church Street, alongside the A690, in the 1980s by a visiting American tourist? The photographer, Kathleen Heyworth, was visiting her ancestor's home, Melrose in nearby Neasham Place. The boy on the right is thought to be Paul Grimes.

Can anybody confirm their identities?

WAS THIS PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING?

DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS WALL?



This puzzling photograph was shared by Allison Wright and comes from a collection of Houghton views featuring her family around 1914.

Could this be the wall of the Rectory Gardens? Can you help to identify it?

Jubilee Time



HLS

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, is a good while off but Palace officials have recently released the new Jubilee logo as designed by a young viewer of the BBC's Blue Peter programme. This, along with the forthcoming wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, whose ancestors were miners from Hetton-le-Hole, mean that it's an ideal time to have a look at some of Houghton's 'Royal' celebrations.



HLS

Do you have any photographs from the Coronation of 1953, the Silver Jubilee of 1977 or the Golden Jubilee of 2002?

If so, get in touch with Houghton Heritage!

These images come from the Houghton Heritage Archives and show:

Top: Houghton's King George V Coronation Bonfire, 1911.

Middle: Outram Street's Coronation party in 1953 for ERII.

Bottom: Residents mark the Silver Jubilee in 1977 with a party on Balfour Street.



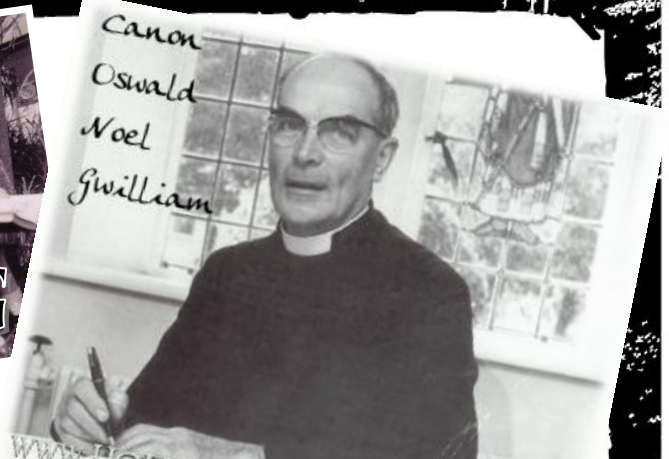
HLS

BUFFALO TO BOAR



HOUGHTON'S HERITAGE IS due to meet the 21st century at the top of Sunderland Street when a new venture opens on April 19th 2011. The Wild Boar is Houghton's newest bar and restaurant and is aptly named after the porcine on the Gilpin Coat of Arms! Following a massive renovation of the old Buffaloes Social Club building by J.D Wetherpoon, the Wild Boar will honour Houghton's venerable past with framed photographs of Old Houghton, a Houghton Feast photograph montage, as well as specially commissioned paintings of Houghton Colliery and Houghton Feast! Paul Lanagan has been involved in the promotion of Houghton's heritage throughout the building, and as the preview of the artwork above shows, the Wild Boar promises to be a true heritage centre!

**NEW BAR & RESTAURANT NAMED AFTER THE WILD BOAR ON
THE GILPIN ARMS, HOUGHTON'S ADOPTED CREST!**



Houghton-le-Spring Remembered is your chance to share your experiences and memories of Houghton in the good old days. The following memories, from Houghtonian Tony Jamieson, relate to 1948 – 1963.

"I am now eighty-years old and still return to Houghton at least once a year to visit a cousin of mine. I am an Altar Server and very active in the church having completed my term of office as a member of the Diocesan Synod of Chelmsford & East London, and I am still a member of my Church's PCC. I was, however, baptised, confirmed and married in St Michael's Church in the Broadway, Houghton-le-Spring, and in my time can remember as a young boy Canon Watson as Rector and in later life Rev'd Hugh Ashdown as Rector, followed by Canon Noel Gwilliam.

I spent many happy years at St Michael's Church before moving to Essex in 1963. As a boy and a young man, I was in the Choir and for a period of time rang the Treble bell in the belfry, but my greatest love was being an Altar Server, and spent many happy years with Canon Noel Gwilliam and his various Curates serving at the High Altar at the celebration of the Holy Communion.

Canon Gwilliam had two daughters, Rosemary and Allison. Rosemary married the Rev'd Frank Streatfield and for fifteen or so years served with him in the missionary field in India. Rosemary had a degree in farming. I fail to remember what her younger sister qualified in, only that she married an engineer and used to live somewhere in the Dartmoor forest. Mrs Gwilliam was the leader of the Mother's Union and a lady in the full sense of the word; everyone loved and respected her greatly, and she was a power of strength behind her husband.

Canon Gwilliam sat on the selection board for prospective candidates for Ordination into the Church of England in the Diocese of Durham. Although he always had a car and caravan he was often seen on his old 'sit up and beg' bicycle, visiting the members of the church, never in his car. Every Christmas morning, after the service of Holy Communion, we the Alter Servers and Curates were invited to the Rectory for a glass of sherry and a piece of Christmas cake.

So many happy memories of Rector Noel and his family. I would go as far as to say, in my time, as a member of St Michael's Church and a member of the PCC, he was the most loved and respected Rector I had the privilege to work with."

Tony Jamieson, 2009



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE 2?

Can you help solve these Genealogical Quests?

More quests are on the usual back cover!

SHORTS FROM HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING

Any information on the following individuals greatly appreciated:

Juliana SHORT b.1781

Jacob SHORT b.1755

Jacob SHORT b.1775

Mars SHORT nee

RICHARDSON b. abt. 1756

Jane SHORT b. abt. 1813

William SHORT b.1809

J.Robinson

JOSEPH HOWE'S FATHER MURDERED?

I am trying to find the record of my great-great-grandfather. I know that his son, Joseph Howe, was born in Houghton Le Spring in March of 1844. We have been unable to find any record of his parents. Family legend says that Joseph's father may have been murdered, but the case was never solved. If you could be of service, it would be greatly appreciated!

*Becky Rosenhan
Saratoga Springs, Utah
USA*

THE BANKS FAMILY

Any information on Thomas BANKS or other BANKS who may have been buried in Houghton-le-Spring.

*P.Banks
Northumberland*

JOSEPH CHIVERS ROBBINS

I was wondering if you have any details of an accident that happened in the mines, which involved a Joseph Chivers Robbins of 1 Dickens Street, Houghton le Spring? It states on his death certificate that he was hit by falling stone on 23rd May 1924; Joseph was an overman, he died 19th Feb 1934, his death apparently accelerated by the accident all those years earlier. Any info most welcome.

Margaret Robbins

SUNNISIDE FOOTBALL TEAM

Hi, We are looking for a photograph from Houghton of the Sunniside football team, but I'm not sure of the year; I have once saw a old photograph in the old Houghton library which was based in Mautland Square it was a local photographer who was doing the show. At the time I was only small (age 14) and now my Uncle and I are trying to find all photographs were possible of family members. Your website has been a great benefit to us and would be grateful if you are aware of any such photographs. Regards,

*Diane Hopkinson &
Robert Davison*

JACQUES HUBERT NICLOUX

Any information on Jacques Hubert NICLOUX would be much appreciated. In 1827, Jacques was an ironmonger and toy warehouse owner on Sunderland Street, Houghton-le-Spring.

R.I. Jackson

FIT AS A BUTCHER'S DOG

During the late 1800s/ early 1900s my great grandfather Jacob Robert Gibson owned a butcher's shop at no. 22 Sunderland Street, his brother Frederick was a tailor at no. 21 and brother-in-law Thomas Harland was another butcher at no.38. Apparently no 22 became a pub some time after my great grandmother died in 1937. If anyone has any information, reminiscences or even photos I would love to hear from them.

*Allison Wright
Ashbourne*

MOSES & MEGGISON

I am interested in the following names: Solomon Moses; Ralph Meggeson Snr; Ralph Meggeson Jnr; Isaac Moses; Thomas Moses; George Moses; John Moses; James Moses; and Lively Moses. Thank you.

Christine Moses

THE WORKHOUSE

I wonder if you can help me please. My mother always said her father died in the 'workhouse hospital'. He died on the 21st September 1934 and his death certificate says 'Heath House, Houghton le Spring UD'. Was Heath House a workhouse at the time? I can't find his name - JAMES GOUNDRY - listed on the website. Any information you can give would be very much appreciated. It's ironic that his father died in the Union Workhouse at Bishop Auckland. It's possible that my grandfather was not an actual 'inmate' because his death certificate did have an address of 7 Sparks Cottages, Chester Le Street. I think he died of Huntington's Disease, although it was obviously not shown as such back then. This would have needed hospitalisation towards the end. There was an inquest held on the 24 September 1924 and his early death (44) was directly attributed to his war service (shell shock). I would like to trace who lived at 7 Sparks Cottages because I believe they were some kind of relative he was staying with. This would probably need a personal visit to Durham though. Once again, thanks for your help. Thanks and Regards.

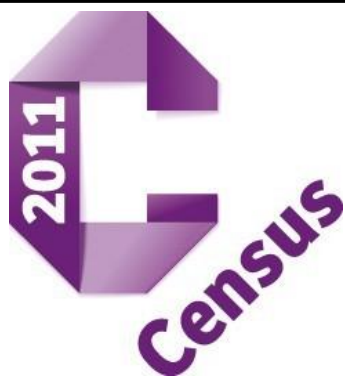
Joan Newbold

PHOTO FOCUS



Ref: HIS1854161277

Members of the Morley family and friends on an outing to Finchale in August 1906.



Today, March 27th 2011, is Census Day and I have just spent an hour filling in my copy by hand; it's not that I'm untrusting of the online submission method, just that I'd like to think my handwritten copy will be scanned and stored on microfilm for my descendants to discover!

Here are a couple of snippets from the 1891 and 1911 Censuses for Houghton:

The Rectory Houghton-le-Spring

1891 - At the Rectory, Rev John Grey (79 years), his wife Helen Mary (54) [she was actually 59], were accompanied by Lady Elizabeth Grey (74, a widow), plus Charles Allen the butler, Sarah Ann Norman (ladies maid - visiting), another ladies maid (name unreadable), Ellen Abbey (ladies maid), Mary Jane Charlton (housekeeper), Mary Ann Holmes (laundry maid), Margaret Chris (housemaid), and Elvina Simmons (kitchenmaid) - all at the Rectory.

Dinsdale House 72 Sunderland Street

1911 - Robert Wedgewood (31), grocery shop assistant; his wife Jane Ann Wedgewood (28); son Norman Wedgewood (5); and son Raymond Wedgewood (3). The Wedgewood family were accompanied by the following lodgers, who were all Music Hall artistes: Herbert William Harwood (43) of Manchester; Sarah Harwood (35); Marie Dabe (15) of Liverpool; Winnifred Thompson (15) of Pendleton, Salford; Maude Marion Graham (15) of Manchester; Hilda Hitchins (16) of Gorton, Manchester; Agnes O Reilly (19) of Manchester; Gertrude Miller (16) of Hightown, Manchester; and Sarah Ellen Dolan (18) of Manchester.



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE 3?

Can you help solve these Genealogical Quests?

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THE WORKHOUSE

Dear Paul, I have received a copy of the birth certificate of a George DAVISON Jan 1912, and a copy of a Certified copy of an entry of birth for the purposes of the Factory and Workhouse Act, 1901, for any purpose connected with the Employment in Labour or Elementary Education of a Young Person. This copy shows George was born in Houghton Workhouse. I understand from your website that you have managed to transcribe 4 of the 8 registers, which is a fantastic feat in itself. As my George is not on the list so far can you point me in the right direction to find out more about George and his mother Annie DAVISON (although his birth certificate shows mother as Ellen DAVISON, so a bit confusing). Any advice is much appreciated. Thanks.

Sarah

SWIFTS IN ISSUE 1

Hello Paul, Regarding family requests in the previous issue about a family SWIFT. Dunno if it's anything new but in your list of residents of Heath House there is listed an Evelyn Gabrielle Mary Swift. There was a family called Swift lived on the Racecourse Estate in the early Fifties. Keep up the good work.

Harry Smith

BENEFIT SHOE SHOP

Paul, Been reading your site again about the shops in Newbottle Street, and I seem to remember that there was a Benefit shoe shop there for many years. Have you any record of this? Regarding Booth and Bruce, I cannot remember if it was Booth or Bruce the father - probably Bruce, who originally ran the shop, built a large house [Melrose] next door where I worked in Myre Hall. His two sons took over the shop when he died. They were aircraft enthusiasts and actually built a light aircraft in the basement below the shop. I don't know if they ever got to fly it. Best regards.

Tom Oliver

GEORGE LAING

Dear Paul. I noticed you have listed a grave for a George Laing. I have that name for the father of the bride from the wedding certificate of his daughter Cecily dated 11 December 1876. It's a long shot but as they were Roman Catholics but I have been unable to find him in any census records. Cecily was born in Croag in Sligo but spent the rest of her life in Newbottle as her husband and the majority of her family were coal miners. Best wishes from Western Australia.

*Eleanor Carney
Western Australia*

HOUGHTON ANCESTORS

Hello from Northbrook, Illinois, Am interested in finding out how to get photos of gravestones, copies of wills and land records for my ancestors who lived in Houghton Le Spring for many generations. My brother and I spent an afternoon in Houghton Le Spring a few years ago and was delighted to have a picture in my mind of where they lived and worked for generations. Unfortunately, at the time, could find little online about the town. So glad to find your website tonight. I am the local historian for our community that was settled in the 1840s - a little more than a decade before my ancestors left Houghton Le Spring. Am very accomplished at locating records here and helping people find what they need here but lost in Houghton le Spring. So, I am also interested in purchasing a book or two to give me a better idea of the history and a better feel for their lives. My names of interest are: Gleghorn; Kirkley; Masterman; Blyth; and Robson. Blyth Robson (born 1805 in Houghton le Spring) and his wife Ann Gleghorn were married in Houghton le Spring in 1825. Their daughter Sarah Blyth Robson married James Masterman

Kirkley at Monk-Wearmouth in 1855 and left for America a few years later. Blyth is listed as a laborer and a farmer in the Census. Ann died there in 1880 and Blyth died in 1883. His will was probated in 1883.

*Judy Hughes
Northbrook, Illinois*

GREY GRAY GRANDFATHERS

Researching my Gray/Grey-grandfathers of Durham, Chillingham, Morpeth - wondering if you perhaps may have stumbled upon history, cheers from U.S.

Lynne

MARGARET DOWSON

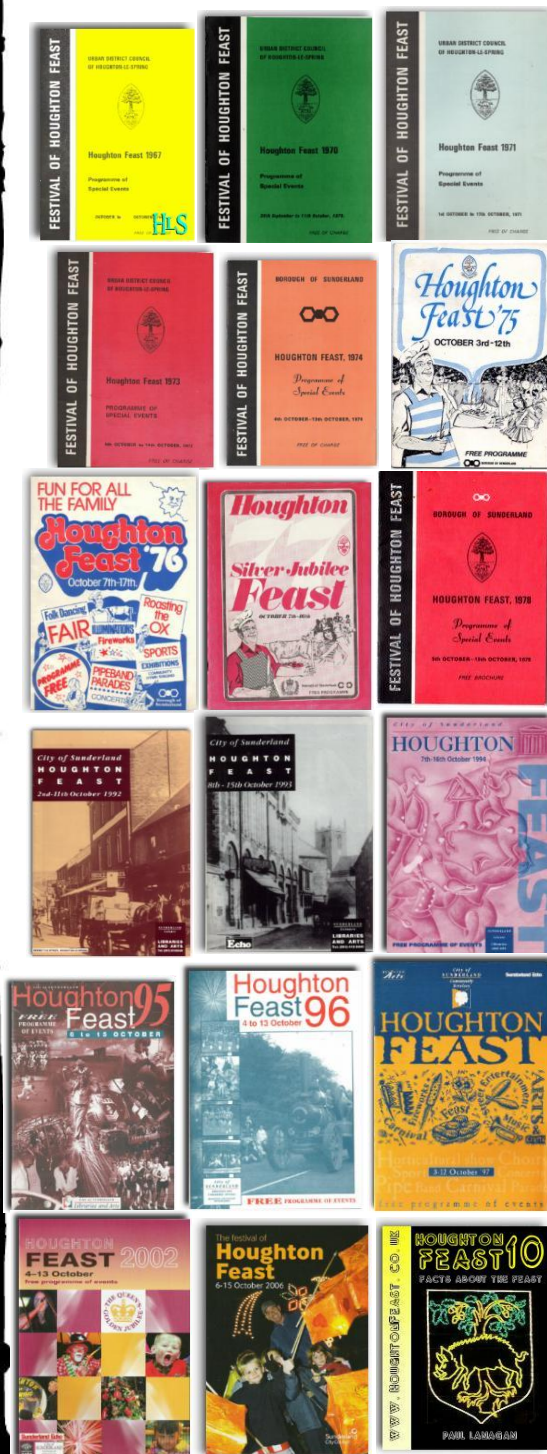
Hi. I am in Australia and am related to Margaret Dowson, (died Sept 1841 at about 90 years of age) that I see as listed, and also the Mould family - her relative or daughter Ann married John Mould - I am interested in any information related to them. I don't know whether I have the right church or not. Regards.

Sarah Russell



To place a request for help here - or to give help - get in touch via the Houghton Heritage website.

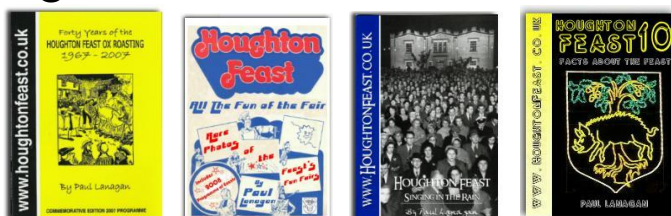
CLASSIFIEDS



HOUGHTON FEAST 2011

ADVERTISEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Local businesses and firms are being invited to take out an advertisement in this year's commemorative Houghton Feast brochure.



BIGGER BROCHURE!

CHEAPER ADVERTISING COSTS!

All advertisers are given a free year long online advert on the Houghton Feast website, which has thousands of visitors. Last year over 3,000 visits on Feast Monday alone!

Adverts are tax-deductible expenses and are a great way to promote your business as well as showing your support for the local community!

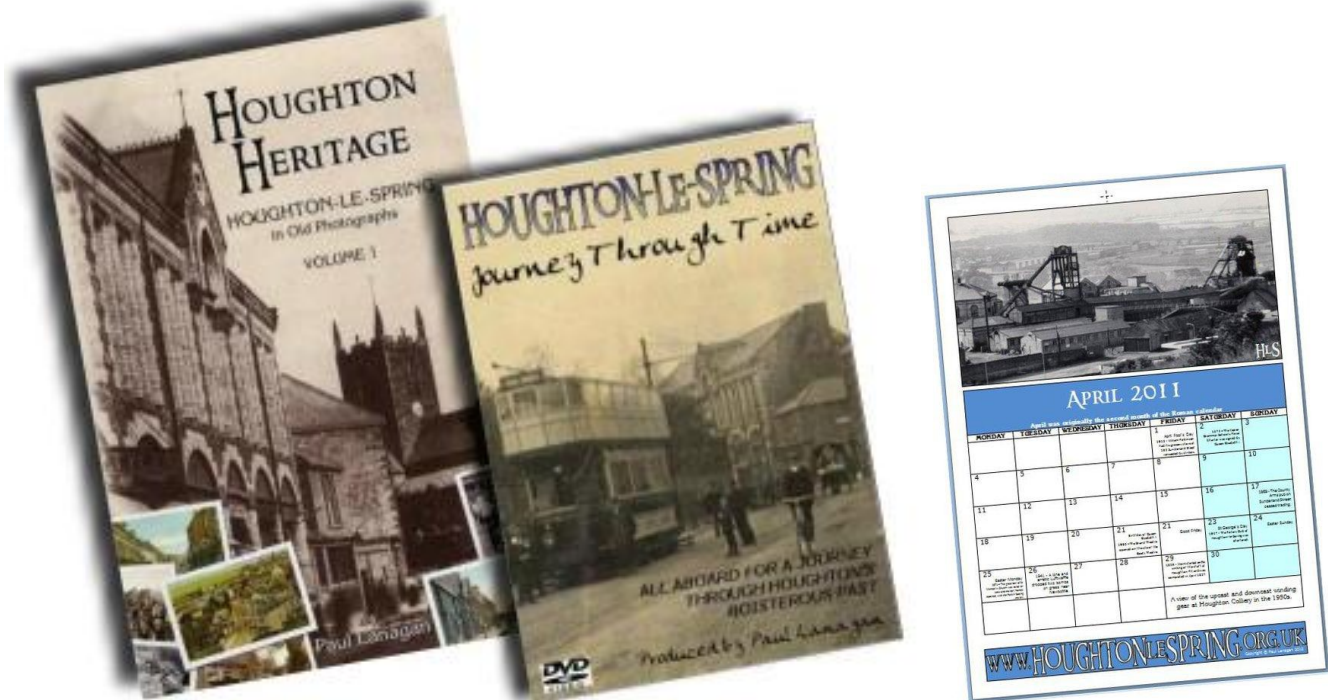
For further information and prices contact:

info@houghtonfeast.co.uk

HOUGHTON HERITAGE

Houghton-le-Spring in Old Photographs book,
Journey Through Time DVD
& 2011 calendar available from:

www.houghtonlespring.org.uk



Each sold separately. Book and DVD also available from:

*Houghton Co-Op; M.Lilley Newsagents, Dubmire;
Colliery Row Post Office; ED&Y Brown, Newsagents, Newbottle;
The Bookcase, Chester-le-Street; and Waterstones Sunderland*



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

**Can you help solve these Genealogical Quests,
which are all centred around Houghton-le-Spring?**

THE HOUGHTONIAN

WOW well done! Printing it out to enjoy with a coffee - love the genealogy requests section Paul. Unfortunately I'm not living or teaching in the North East now but I would like to still receive your info and pass this on to my old students from Houghton, many thanks again.

Judith Richardson

ROTHSAY HOUSE

Has anyone ever heard of a Rothsay House Fence Houses? I have a marriage cert. of a relative who was married at Newbottle church in 1909 and his address is given as Rothsay House Fence Houses. It has been suggested that at that time Fence Houses had a railway station and the term 'Fence Houses' could have covered a large area. This thought is confirmed on the 1891 census, whereby parts of Shiney Row etc. are given as Fence Houses. So Rothsay House could be anywhere in the area. His bride lived in Philadelphia so it's possible he lived somewhere between there and Fence Houses. Any help would be appreciated.

Dave Warne

THE BURDASS FAMILY

Looking for information about the following with the BURDASS/BURDESS/BURDIS surname: William Burdass; Elizabeth Burdass; William Burdass; Mary Burdass; Mary Ann Burdis and Elizabeth Burdis.

*Mrs K. Gillinder
Cambridge*

TINDALES ET AL

Looking for information about the following Houghton people: Robert Tindale; Esther, John and Isabella Oliver; the Thurlaway family; and John, Sarah, and Margaret Robinson. These people may have been buried at Houghton Hillside Cemetery.

*Alison Crawford
Surrey*

WILLIAM HERON, CABINET MAKER

Any information on William HERON, a cabinet maker, and the following Herons: Margaret Heron x 2 ; Ann Heron; Ralph Heron; Thomas Heron; William Heron was the son of Ralph Heron and Ann Hammond who were married in Sunderland in 1798. Thank you.

J.E. Muil, Cumbria

THE HONEY FAMILY

Hi, Has anyone got any information on the Honey family who lived in the Houghton-le-Spring, Fencehouses, Shiney Row areas from the 1870's to 1930's? My great grandfather was George William Winter Honey who I believe was postmaster at Fencehouses. I have also found that Rebecca Honey & GWW Honey are buried at Hillside Cemetery, but haven't found William Henry Honey (Rebecca's husband) by looking at the Houghton website. I've also found a photo of a football team from the 1920's I should think - vertical stripes on the shirts and dark shorts. Any help will be most welcome

*Pat Goodshipp
Wiltshire*

THE LAX FAMILY

To Whom It May Concern, I am researching Lax's and would like to obtain as much information as possible about the Lax's buried at St. Michaels & All Angel Church. Thank you,

*Randy Lax
Memphis, Tennessee*

RALPH HALL

Dear Paul, I am writing from Australia and am doing family history research for my husband, Andrew Pearce. We have found links to Ralph Hall baptised 29th January 1670, his father Ralph and his son Ralph, baptised on 29th June 1709 in Houghton-le-Spring. His daughter Margaret (bap 29th April 1734) married William Johnson on 16th June 1759 and am wondering if you have any information or photos of graves. Thank you for your time.

*Samantha Pearce
Hahndorf, S. Australia*

WHERE WAS HANNAH RICHARDSON BURIED?

Does anybody know where Hannah Richardson was buried? She was born in around 1880 and died at Shiney Row in the 1960s and was buried in Houghton-le-Spring after 1960.

*Deborah Whinfield
Co Durham*

**WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE is continued inside,
following a larger-than-usual amount of enquiries.**

THE HOUGHTONIAN

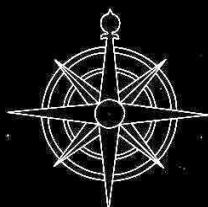
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